

the people in Kashmir and Punjab and Jammu, India might as well be Nazi Germany."

In the words of Narinder Singh, a spokesman for the Golden Temple, the seat of the Sikh religion, who was interviewed in August 1997 by National Public Radio, "The Indian government, all the time they boast that they are secular, that they are democratic. But they have nothing to do with a democracy, nothing to do with a secularism. They just kill Sikhs to please the majority."

In the March 4 issue of *Forbes*, Steve Forbes compared India to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, arguing that as a multinational State, India is inherently unstable. Prior to the British conquest of the subcontinent, there was no political entity called India. It was a series of princely states brought together by the British.

The Kashmiri people were promised a referendum on their status in 1948, but that vote has never been held. The Sikhs, who were supposed to receive independence, have never had any of their representatives sign the Indian constitution. Instead of respecting "the glow of freedom" that Nehru and Patel promised the Sikhs, the government declared them a "criminal class" as the ink was dry on the constitution. Currently, 17 freedom movements are going on within India's borders.

Some Members of Congress have called for sanctions against India and for an end to American aid. Some have also endorsed self-determination for the peoples seeking freedom from India through a plebiscite on independence. While these events seem unlikely to occur any time soon, the Indian government has held negotiations with the freedom fighters in predominantly Christian Nagaland. Home Minister L.K. Advani recently admitted that if Kashmir achieves freedom (which now seems more likely than ever), it will cause India to break apart.

Some experts have predicted that within a decade, neither India nor Pakistan will exist in the form we know them presently. The Indian subcontinent will continue to be a region that bears close attention by American policymakers.

NURSING HOME RESIDENT SAFETY ASSURANCE ACT

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Nursing Home Resident Safety Assurance Act, legislation to require background checks on indirect care personnel in our nation's nursing homes.

Currently, there are 17,000 nursing homes in the United States where approximately 1.5 million of our nation's seniors reside. A 1999 study conducted by the House Government Reform Committee analyzed two years of state inspection and complaint investigation reports of nursing homes and revealed that abuse of nursing home residents is a widespread, serious problem. Specifically, over 30 percent of nursing homes in the United States, or 5,283 facilities, were cited for an abuse violation between January 1, 1999 and January 1, 2001. During the two-year period of the report, these nursing homes were cited for 8,972 violations. The most frequent violations were failure to properly investigate and report allegations of resident abuse or failure to ensure

that nursing home staff had no record of abusing, neglecting or mistreating residents. For this reason, Congress must take additional action to protect seniors receiving care in our nation's nursing homes.

My legislation, the Nursing Home Resident Safety Assurance Act is an important step towards achieving that goal. The bill would amend Public Law 105-277, which currently requires federal criminal background checks on direct care personnel to also allow background checks on indirect care personnel such as maintenance workers, janitors and dietary staff. These individuals have direct access to seniors in nursing homes without completing the screening procedures that direct care personnel, such as physical therapists and licensed nurse practitioners are required to have. The current loophole in the law puts our society's most vulnerable members, the elderly and disabled in circumstances rife with opportunities for abuse and exploitation.

The state of North Carolina recognized this potential for abuse and the state legislature passed legislation requiring criminal background checks for both direct and indirect care nursing home personnel who have not lived in North Carolina for 5 years. Public Law 105-277 hinders this background check process by preventing the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from releasing background information on indirect care personnel.

Amending this law to require criminal background checks on all nursing home personnel would send a message that Congress is serious about protecting the welfare of our Nation's seniors. Please join me in supporting the Nursing Home Resident Safety Assurance Act, common sense legislation to protect our nation's most vulnerable citizens.

DONATION OF A PIECE OF THE BERLIN WALL

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the gift of a piece of the Berlin Wall to my good friend, Georgia State Senator Chuck Clay. The grandson of General Lucius Clay, who spearheaded the 1949 Berlin Air Lift that saved West Berlin from a Soviet invasion, and its citizens from starvation, Senator Clay is an appropriate recipient of this gift that recognizes one of our greatest military heroes. I am proud to represent the Marietta community in the United States House of Representatives.

The importance of General Clay's efforts during the Cold War cannot be overstated. After serving his country in the Second World War, he earned the Distinguished Service Medal. Later, he became commander of the U.S. armed forces in Europe, as well as the military governor of Germany. With his endeavors to make the Air Lift a success, he united the American and Berlin people in a friendship that has continued to this date. Yet even after retiring from the army, General Clay remained involved in a life of service as an advisor to President Eisenhower, an Ambassador to Berlin under President Kennedy, and as a member of countless committees on civic affairs.

I am honored to be able to assist in bringing this piece of the Berlin Wall to the Marietta community. I know that my colleagues join in recognizing its symbolic importance to German-American friendship, and will join me in hallowing the efforts of those who gave so much to make this possible.

TRIBUTE TO 2001-2002 SACRAMENTO KINGS

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the 2001-2002 Sacramento Kings, one of the most exciting and formidable teams in the National Basketball Association. The 2001-2002 Kings completed the greatest season in franchise history by taking the two-time defending World Champions, the Los Angeles Lakers, to the brink of elimination in a fiercely contested seven game series. Although the season ended short of a Championship, the 2001-2002 Kings demonstrated remarkable courage, determination, and promise that have surely made them a great source of civic pride and a perennial NBA powerhouse for years to come. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting the remarkable 2001-2002 Sacramento Kings.

Throughout the course of the season, the 2001-2002 Sacramento Kings showed tremendous character in overcoming numerous obstacles. Despite losing star players Chris Webber and Peja Stojakovic for significant portions of the season, the Kings finished the regular season with a league best mark of 61 wins and 21 losses. The Kings won the franchise's first division championship since relocating to Sacramento in 1985. By combining a high-octane offense and a tenacious defense, this year's Kings posted the best overall record, home record and road record in franchise history. It is clear that the 2001-2002 Sacramento Kings are the most successful team in the franchise's illustrious 54 year history.

The Kings began their postseason campaign in fine form, as they only needed four games to conquer their old nemesis, the Utah Jazz. In the next round, the Kings overcame significant injuries to Peredrag Stojakovic and Doug Christie to defeat a talented Dallas Mavericks team by a four games to one margin. In the Western Conference finals, the Kings locked horns with the Los Angeles Lakers in one of the most hotly contested and memorable playoff series in NBA history. Although the Kings would lose the series after stretching the ultimate seventh game into overtime, their outstanding performance throughout the playoffs cemented the Kings' status as one of the preeminent teams in the NBA today and the dominant team of the future.

The 2001-2002 Sacramento Kings are comprised of an outstanding blend of superstar players, seasoned veterans, and exciting young players. This Kings team is spearheaded by the all around excellence of All-Stars Chris Webber and Peredrag Stojakovic. On defense, the Kings are lead by defensive stalwart and All NBA Defensive Second Team member Doug Christie. Skillful big men Vlade Divac, Scot Pollard, and Lawrence

Funderburke provide consistent play in the paint. The boundless energy and exuberance of Mike Bibby, Bobby Jackson, and Hidayet Turkoglu fuels the Kings trademark high-power offense. High-flying rookie Gerald Wallace and the talented Mateen Cleaves provide an enticing glimpse into the team's future with their enormous potential. To round off the roster, solid veterans Chucky Brown and Brent Price provide steady and valuable leadership on the floor and in the locker room. This dazzling group of players, combined with a selfless commitment to team play, are major reasons why the Kings enjoyed such unparalleled success during the 2001–2002 season.

In addition to a wonderful roster, the 2001–2002 Kings also benefited greatly from the tutelage of one of the best coaching staffs and the leadership of one of the most progressive front offices in the NBA. On the bench, the 2001–2002 Kings were lead by head coach Rick Adelman and assistant coaches Pete Carril, John Wetzell and Elston Turner. These coaches were able to harness one of the greatest collections of talented players in the NBA into a balanced scoring team that is epitomized by team play and an unyielding commitment to defense. In the front office, the Kings are led by the visionary ownership of the Maloof Family and the astute personnel moves of team president Geoff Petrie. Under the ownership of the Maloof Family, the Kings have taken great steps to forge one of the most unique and strongest relationships in all of sports with their team supporters. Given the Kings' front office's commitment to the city of Sacramento, it is no wonder why Kings fans are widely regarded as the most spirited and most loyal fans in America.

Mr. Speaker, as the Sacramento Kings conclude its greatest season in franchise history and prepare to achieve greater triumphs in the future, I am honored to pay tribute to the many hard working men and women of the Kings organization who brought so much joy and pride to the people of Sacramento and Kings' fans everywhere. Their successes are considerable, and it is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to their accomplishments. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the Sacramento Kings on a wonderful season and wishing them greater success in future seasons.

TRIBUTE TO HARRISON TOWNSHIP

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Harrison Township, whose outstanding dedication and commitment to the service of its community has led to a great accomplishment. On Tuesday, May 28, 2002, Harrison Township celebrated its 175th Anniversary, commemorating 175 years of civic excellence.

Every year on Memorial Day, we recognize those who fought for our nation and gave their lives in the name of democracy and freedom. It is a time for us to remember the patriotism they showed as they went into battle, the courage with which they fought, and the ultimate sacrifice they made for our country. This year, as the community of Harrison Township

gathered together to honor Memorial Day, they also had the distinct honor of celebrating the 175th Anniversary of Harrison Township.

Harrison Township today is a flourishing center of civic and social activities and resources for families of the community. With a great emphasis on community service, Harrison Township has opened its doors throughout the years to welcome community members to civic gatherings, conferences, club meetings, and events for the entire family.

Community will always serve as the cornerstone of Harrison Township. But Harrison Township is expanding, by bringing in new levels of technology and resources. The community of Harrison Township has dedicated its time and talents to bring their community into the 21st Century, and they have been successful. Because of this community's unwavering support, Harrison Township has become a community that will continue to cultivate its historic roots as well as reach out to younger generations.

Harrison Township is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of community members and their families. I applaud Harrison Township for its leadership, commitment, and service, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this landmark occasion.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF AMANDA SCHAECHER

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Amanda Schaecher, who deserves our thanks and recognition for her efforts to make sure our troops and veterans are not forgotten. When Amanda was crowned Miss Henry County Fair, she had no specific cause to promote or project for which she wanted to raise funds. But following the terrorist attacks of September 11, a cause found her. She has used whatever resources were at her disposal as queen to help our troops and veterans.

Last November, in honor of Veteran's Day, Amanda printed special certificates of recognition which she presented, along with an American flag, to more than 50 veterans residing in nursing homes and independent living centers in Henry County.

Just before Christmas, she launched an ongoing project to encourage contributions to the USO, so current troops overseas are not forgotten. She has recorded public service announcements for local radio stations and placed a public service ad in the Kewanee Star Courier newspaper and taped up posters at various locations around Henry County.

Earlier this year, when she heard the Kewanee National Guard unit would not be able to hold its annual fundraiser at its armory because of heightened security precautions, she arranged for it to be held at Wethersfield High School.

There are many examples of patriotism and service in the aftermath of Sept. 11. Amanda Schaecher exemplifies those values. The time, talent and energy she has given cannot be calculated—they are priceless.

Our veterans and military personnel have no better friend and supporter than Amanda. I am

proud and honored to recognize her tireless and extraordinary efforts. I join the entire community and America's veterans and military personnel in thanking and honoring Amanda.

HONORING THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK OF NEW JERSEY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today has been designated by America's Second Harvest as the First Annual Hunger Awareness Day. I would like to ask my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the dedicated work of the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, whose mission is to fight hunger and poverty.

Many individuals and families in need benefit from the efforts of the Community Food Bank and its associated food banks, which provide assistance to emergency feeding programs in 18 of New Jersey's 21 counties. Today, representatives from those counties will gather at the Food Bank to issue a call to action. Participants will include recipients of emergency food, who will share their stories; staff from soup kitchens and shelters; volunteers; and donors of food and funds. The goal of the Hunger Awareness Forum is to highlight what is happening in New Jersey, to reveal how many are hungry in our State, and to discuss how all of us can work together to see that no one from New Jersey is without food. The Community Food Bank is the vital link between the food industry and the charitable organizations which serve the needy in our community.

Activities are being planned throughout the nation today to raise awareness of the need to address hunger both nationally and locally. The theme of this initiative is "Nobody in America Should Go Hungry."

Mr. Speaker, as Congress addresses the issue of hunger, it is fitting that we take a moment to honor the efforts of the staff and volunteers who have made the Community Food Bank of New Jersey such a successful resource for our communities. Let us thank them for assisting countless individuals and families through this labor of love.

TRIBUTE TO DR. FRANZ B. HUMER

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 5, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to take this opportunity to recognize the work of an outstanding individual, Dr. Franz B. Humer, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Roche Holdings, Ltd, one of the world's leading healthcare companies whose United States headquarters is located in my district, in Nutley, New Jersey.

On Wednesday, May 22, Dr. Humer was honored along with Leah Tutu, the wife of Bishop Desmond Tutu, at the Phelophepa Health Care Train Gala dinner in New York